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(71) Applicant: **ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC.**
[US/US]; 4545 Creek Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242 (US).

(72) Inventors: **MAKIN, Inder, Raj., S.**; 11388 Donwiddle Drive, Loveland, OH 45140 (US). **DUNKI-JACOBS, Robert**; 4600 Wesley Court, Mason, OH 45040 (US).

(74) Agents: **JOHNSON, Philip, S.** et al.; Johnson & Johnson, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 45242 (US).

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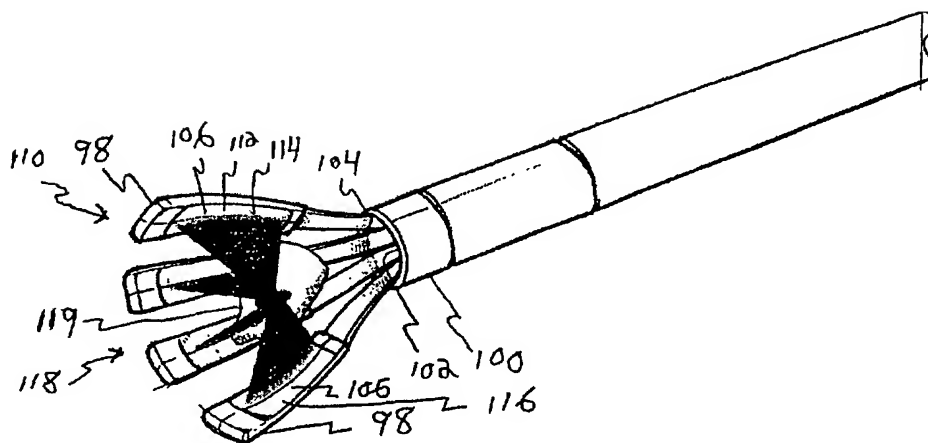
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(54) Title: FACETED ULTRASOUND MEDICAL TRANSDUCER ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: An ultrasound medical system (10) includes an ultrasound transducer assembly which is insertable into a patient (14), which has a longitudinal axis, and which has a plurality P of ultrasound transducers (20, 26). Each transducer (20, 26) has an ultrasound-emitting surface oriented at an angle of substantially 360/P degrees apart from the ultrasound-emitting surface of an adjacent transducer when viewed in a cross section of the transducer assembly taken by a cutting plane which is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis. In one example, the ultrasound transducer assembly is an ultrasound imaging transducer assembly, an ultrasound medical-treatment transducer assembly, or an ultrasound imaging and medical-treatment transducer assembly.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/16417

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 8/00
US CL : 600/439, 443, 447, 471

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 600/407-471; 601/2, 3; 607/9-122; 73/625, 626; 29/25.35;

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3,779,234 A (Eggleton et al.) 18 December 1973 (18.12.1973), the entire document, especially Figs. 2-3 and col. 2, lines 26-65.	1 and 2
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Y		3-40
Y	US 6,053,868 A (Geistert et al.) 25 April 2000 (25.04.2000), the entire document.	3-40
A	US 5,031,626 A (Hassler et al.) 16 July 1991 (16..07.1991), Fig. 1.	1-40



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Box PCT
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Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Mark D. Conley Sr.
Ali Imam

Telephone No. 703-308-1148

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US02/16417

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST 1.2

search terms: ultrasound, transducer, angle, treatment, image, medical, wavelength